

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, in a video picture compression system capable of coding by either a frame structure or a field structure, there can be used either coding by "the field structure" in which one video picture to be coded is coded in a manner corresponding to one field video picture or coding by "the frame structure" in which one video picture to be coded is coded in a manner corresponding to one interlaced frame video picture. However, in the prior art, it is previously designated from the outside as to which is selected out of the frame structure and the field structure before the video picture is coded, so that the video picture to be input is coded by fixedly using the designated structure, thereby outputting coded data. That is, the coding is carried out by the fixed picture structure irrespective of the feature of the video picture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Additionally, in the case where it is not found whether the input video picture is an interlaced video picture or a non-interlaced video picture, [the] high coding efficiency can be achieved by a 2-step system in which it is previously discriminated by some method whether or not the input video picture is an interlaced video picture, and thereafter, the picture structure is switched from the outside at the time of coding based on the discrimination information. Such a 2-step system is unavailable on the assumption of coding in real time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to achieve the above objects, the present invention has a means for detecting a variance between the video pictures based on information on sequentially input video pictures, determining the correlation between the video pictures based on the detected information, and deciding the video picture for which an intra-frame coding system is used according to the degree of the correlation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, the present invention has a means for detecting a motion feature between the input video pictures so as to decide an optimum predictive frame interval.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Moreover, the present invention has a means for discriminating whether each of sequentially input video pictures is an interlaced video picture or a non-interlaced video picture, wherein coding by the field structure is selected if the video picture is an interlaced video picture while coding by the frame structure is selected unless the video picture is an interlaced video picture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 with the following rewritten

paragraph:

*A6 conc*

Additionally, the present invention calculates a variance of a video picture based on an interlaced video picture to be input so as to switch coding by the frame/field structures based on the calculation value.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*A7 conc*

With these features, it is possible to prevent any degradation of the coding efficiency caused by a variation in feature of the input video picture, which was inevitable at the time of fixed selection of the frame/field structures in the prior art. Furthermore, since the discrimination as to whether the input video picture is an interlaced video picture or a non-interlaced video picture, which need be determined before the coding, is automatically detected at the time of the coding, the efficient coding can be carried out irrespective of the feature or structure of the input video picture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*A8 conc*

Figs. 5A and 5B are explanatory views of a method for calculating a variance between two pixels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph: